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Title:

Speech notes for the Parliamentary dinner in honour of His Excellency The Governor, Sir Mark Oliphant, K.B.E.

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SPEECH NOTES FOR THE PARLIAMENTARY DINNER IN HONOUR OF HIS EXCELLENCY
THE GOVERNOR, SIR MARK OLIPHANT, K.B.E.

1st December, 1971.

YOUR EXCELLENCY,

LADY OLIPHANT,

SIR MELLIS,

YOUR HONOURS,

MY LORD MAYOR,

MINISTERIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY COLLEAGUES,

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

1. ALL ARE GATHERED TOGETHER TO HONOUR A GREAT SOUTH AUSTRALIAN AND A NEW HEAD OF STATE.
2. GOVERNORS NEED NOT BE POPULARLY ELECTED TO BE POPULARLY CHOSEN.
3. IN MANY WAYS THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN YOUR PARLIAMENTS, YOUR EXCELLENCY, REFLECT THE INTERESTS AND THE CONCERNS OF THIS COMMUNITY - WE ARE IN A SENSE A MIRROR OF THE COMMUNITY.
4. BUT IF PARLIAMENTS ARE A MIRROR OF MANY ASPECTS OF PUBLIC OPINION, SO IT CAN ALSO BE SAID THAT A GOVERNOR IS THE STANDARD FOR A COMMUNITY AROUND WHICH COALESCE THE IDEALS OF THE RULE OF LAW, DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT, OF LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVENESS, AND PUBLIC RESPONSIBILITY IN BOTH LARGE AND SMALL AREAS OF ADMINISTRATION AND LAW MAKING.
5. AND AS I SAID EARLIER TODAY IT IS RIGHT AND PROPER THAT A COMMUNITY SUCH AS OURS SHOULD HAVE ONE OF ITS MOST EXHALTED SONS TO BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THIS HIGH VICE REGAL OFFICE.

1., SIR, IT IS SAID THAT A POLITICIAN IS A MAN WHO DIVIDES HIS TIME BETWEEN
RUNNING FOR OFFICE AND RUNNING FOR COVER.

2. MUCH HAS BEEN SAID AND WRITTEN SINCE YOUR APPOINTMENT ABOUT THE CHANGE IN
THE STYLE WHICH YOU MAY BRING TO GOVERNMENT HOUSE; SOME IN THIS ROOM HAVE
EVEN WONDERED IF MESSAGES TO PARLIAMENT WILL BE BROUGHT NOT BY
IMMACULATELY CLAD CAPTAINS, BUT BY NEATLY WHITE COATED Ph.D's.

3. ROMAN SAYING AFTER A MEAL WITHOUT COMPANY:

"I HAVE EATEN BUT NOT DINED ... TONIGHT, YOUR EXCELLENCY, WE HAVE
DINED..."

4. A TRADITIONAL SAYING AMONG THE ANCIENT GREEKS:

"NATURE GIVES US TWO EARS AND ONE TONGUE, SO THAT WE OUGHT TO
LISTEN AS MUCH AS WE TALK".